

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain in this application after entry of the amendments to the claims noted above. The Applicants submit that these amendments are non-narrowing amendments and are made solely to place the claims in better form for U.S. practice and are not being made to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations, including, for example, removing multiple dependencies in the claims.

CONCLUSION

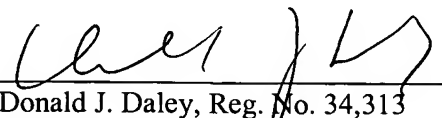
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-21 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and/or 1.17, including, for example, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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